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International Court of Justice

Com. B.
Take 3 - 7
Winkler
17 June 1946

H0954 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

17 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. George R. Taylor

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at 1500 hours)

KARL ENGELBERT, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: Will the witness stand please? What is your fullname?

THE WITNESS: Karl Engelbert.

MR. TAYLOR: Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me. I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

MR. TAYLOR: You may sit down.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. NATH (Defense Counsel for the Corps of Political Leaders)

Q. Please tell the Commission how old you are, what your civil profession is, and how long you have followed that profession?

A. I am 55 years of age. I am a technical engineer in the city of Bonn. I have been BAURAT which would be councillor in charge of building activities of the city since 1924, and I have been living all those years in Bonn.

Q. When and why did you join the party?

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A. I joined the party on the first of May 1933. I did so because after parlimentary form had become inactive in Germany due to small party, I felt that all constructive forces should join in one large party to prevent the break of Germany.

Q. Did you belone to one of the democratic ~~partyi~~ parties in Germany before 1933?

A. No.

Q. ~~Herrxyzzxx~~ Where were you a Kreiswirtschaftsberater - that would be advisor of economic affairs to the Kreisleiters?

A. In Bonn. I received on April 20, 1937, a letter from the Gauleiter in Cologne, appointing me to Kreiswirtschaftsberater - Economic Advisor to the Kreisleiter. I filled this office until the end.

Q. Did you know which characteristics were used in the selection of the Kreiswirtschaftsberater?

A. Part of the Kreiswirtschaftsberater were selected from industry and and trade. The other part from those civil servants who were concerned with economic matters.

Q. Did you receive any identifying papers as political leiters?

A. In 1942, I received such a paper as a political leiter.

3:30 P.M.

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Q. Was the oath of ~~k~~ office taken from you?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it possible to refuse the exactments of political office or to lay down such am office because one didn't agree with the political aims and opinions of the Nazis?

A. That would have been impossible for any public servant without very severe consequences.

Q. Please advise the Commission ~~xx~~ to what serious consequences you are referring.

A. I had to report to my superiors at the office the acceptance or the declination of such an office. My superior officer was obliged to forward such a report, if it concerned the refusal of such a Party office, to the Ministry of State.

Q. What would have been the consequence for the position of the civil servant?

A. Someone like me, who was holding a leading position, would have had to resign from his position.

Q. Describe to the Commission the structure of the gau economic office or the kreis economic office attached to the staff of the kreisleiter.

A. I am going to do so as far as the ~~kreiswirtschaftsberater~~ kreiswirtschaftsberater/(kreis economic office) is concerned. I belonged as kreiswirtschaftsberater to the enlarged staff of the kreisleiter, whose subordinate I was in disciplinary matters. Directives of an official nature I received from the gauwirtschaftsberater, who belonged to the staff of the gauleiter. As far as I know, the gauwirtschaftsberater received his instructions from the gauleiter and from the deputy of the fuehrer. I did not maintain any office in the kreisleiter's office building.

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Q. Did you have any staff to assist you?

A. My tasks were so small that I didn't need any assistance.

Q. Please describe the tasks of the kreiswirtschaftsberater.

A. My job was the counselling of the kreisleiter and of my fellow citizens in regard to economic affairs. People who, for instance, needed advice in tax matters came ~~x~~ to me to inquire where they should go. Also, until the outbreak of war, I had to hold monthly conferences with representatives of industry, trade, the German Labor Front, and of the crafts, and to report the results of those discussions on general economic problems to the kreisleiter. Special problems which were the subject of such conversations were, for instance, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ monetary problems, raw materials and labor supply.

Q. Were you the economic advisor to the ortsgruppenleiter?

A. No.

Q. Would you characterize the office of the kreiswirtschaftsberater as a merely professional office?

A. Yes, it was merely professional.

Q. Did similar merely professional offices exist~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in the staff?

A. Yes, there were others, as, for instance, for the people's health, education, civil servants, technique, legal advisors, and community policy.

Q. Did the advisors for trades, industry, and also agricultural policy also belong?

A. Yes, I forgot to mention them.

Q. Was there a decrease in the activities of the kreiswirtschaftsberater during the war?

A. Yes; after the outbreak of the war those monthly conferences were not held anymore because the army ~~xxxxx~~ began to take care of the

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industrial establishments. The only tasks which remained were occasional sessions giving advice to individual fellow citizens.

Q. To enable the Commission to form an opinion as to the scope of your activities, please tell us how many of those conferences you held.

A. They were most infrequent--perhaps once every two or three months.

Q. Did those professional advisors of the kreisleiter, for instance of the kreiswirtschaftsberater, participate in the regularly-scheduled conferences of the kreisleiter, and how often did those take place?

A. I participated only at conferences which were called every two or three months, but I did not participate in monthly political conferences which the kreisleiter held with his political advisors.

Q. What was the subject of conversation between you, as a kreiswirtschafts-berater, and those professional advisors of the kreisleiter, every two or three months?

A. There wasn't anything particularly directed to any of us. The invitations were extended to all of us, and we had a duty to appear at such meetings. The kreisleiter reviewed the general terms of the situation, stressing that anything he would say would be merely his personal opinion; and the man in charge of the kreisleiter's office subsequently announced any dates of schedules which had to be known to the staff of the kreisleiter. Then the question was asked whether anybody attending the meeting wished to bring up anything of general interest to those present. If so, those questions were discussed. And then the meeting, which lasted on the average of some one to one and one-half hours, was adjourned.

Q. Did you receive orders from the kreisleiter, and, if so, which?

A. The only thing which I had to do with the kreisleiter was that the kreisleiter referred citizens who came to him with questions of an economic nature to me.

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Q. Do I understand you correctly, Witness, that you, if such citizens were referred to you, that you were to advise them?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. What was the connection of the kreiswirtshaftsberater office to other Nazi organizations, as the SA, SS, German Labor Front, etc.?

A. No connection whatsoever existed.

Q. Did you know the Leyh Organizations Book of the Nazi Party?

A. No, I never saw it.

Q. Did you know, on the basis of your personal experience, whether the political leiters paid attention to the Organizations Book and followed its directives.

A. I can't answer, because I didn't know of it.

Q. Do you know an order issued by Hitler and posted in all Party offices within the last few years, and saying that only that person may know about a matter who is concerned with its carrying out and no one has to learn more than he should know for the fulfillment of his tasks///, and no one should learn of a matter earlier than he has to? Was that order observed by the staff of the kreisleiter?

A. The only knowledge I had of that Hitler order was that which I had gained as a civil servant. As a kreiswirtschaftsberater, the kreisleiter never gave me notice of that order. I never saw it posted in any office of the kreisleiter.

Q. Were there any secret directives for the kreiswirtschaftsberater?

A. I never received secret orders.

Q. One calls the kreiswirtschaftsberater a political leiter. Had they anything to do with politics in the narrow sense of the word?

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A. No, we were not concerned with political questions.

Q. Did you, therefore, consider it correct that the kreiswirtschafts-berater and the other professional advisors were considered political leiters?

A. Only in a very broad sense is that expression justified.

Q. Could you explain a little more elaborately?

A. Generally any officeholder or any candidate for Party membership who held an office in the Party was called a political leiter, regardless of whether he had to fill political or professional tasks.

Q. Did you know whether that title, "Political leiter", was bestowed upon people as an honorary title, too?

A. Only in that sense that former kreisleiters, if they assumed public office--as, for instance, Lord Mayor--then they retained the title "Kreisleiter" as an honorary title.

Q. Did the political leiters you knew of belong to a Christian church?

A. A large part of those I knew did belong to a Christian church. I, myself, am a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and have held various offices in my church and counselled and advised my church in regard to building matters. After I surrendered that office, I was given an honorary office in that church.

Q. Did the political leiters of your district participate in church activities; for instance, did they attend services and participate in church organizations?

A. Yes, in regard to those political leiters who did belong to a church, they did participate in such activities.

Q. Did the political leiters receive instructions, particularly from

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the gauleiters or kreisleiters, to leave the church?

A. As far as I know, I can't remember anything of that kind. I do recall that a conference of advisors of the kreisleiter in 1938 started to discuss the matter of leaving the church, but the kreisleiter definitely stated that such matters should not be discussed.

Q. I now come to definite points of the indictment. The indictment charges the political leiters with having participated in a joint plan of conspiracy aiming at the committing of crimes against the peace, the laws of international warfare, and humanity. The indictment considers the Party Program the main basis of that conspiracy of conquest and crime. I shall ask you a few questions in regard to the points of the Party Program and ask you, in connection with Point Two of Part One: "We demand the equal rights of the German people--equal to the rights of other nations. We demand the abolition of the Treaty of Versailles." How did the leiters of professional offices understand this point of the Party Program?

A. I can't say how leiters in general considered that point, because we never discussed it. I can give you only my personal opinion. My opinion was that, since that treaty provided for procedures which allowed for amendments for the other countries concerned, that procedure should be applied to Germany, too.

Q. Was there anything known within the staff of the kreisleiter, to which you belonged, with regard to the planning of an aggressive war?

A. No, we weren't told anything of that kind.

Q. How did the political leiters and the German people react to the outbreak of the war in 1939?

A.

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A. I can only say, as a matter of grave importance and as a matter of defense to which we were compelled.

Q. The indictment further charges that the Corps of Political Leiters--that means also the leiters of the professional offices, the economic offices--were responsible for all measures conducted for the purpose of the conspiracy of the State and of the Government, including legislative matters. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberäters who were coordinated to the kreisleiter have any influence on the legislation of the Third Reich--even only in the form of mere suggestions?

A. Such a possibility did not exist; at least I never heard of it.

Q. It is claimed that a significant example of the responsibility of the political leiters was their participation in the persecution of the Christian Church.

A. I know nothing of such a participation.

Q. Were the kreiswirtschaftsberaters informed by the Party's highest officials or by the kreisleiter, of the fight against the Church, and did they have anything to do with it?

A. Neither in personal conversation nor at those meetings called "kreisappelle", was there anything said about it by the kreisleiter.

Q. Were you ever told anything about the ideas of the Party in the Church-Party war?

A. No, I never heard anything about that.

Q. Many ministers, Protestant and Catholic alike, and members of religious orders, were arrested and put into concentration camps by the Nazis, and the property of the Church was confiscated. Did the Party leadership inform you as a kreiswirtschaftsberater, or any of your other colleagues, of those actions against ministers and churches, or did you learn about those things by other means?

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A. I learned nothing about those things in my capacity as kreiswirtschaftsberater, and I am sure that the other advisors learned only by chance. In my position as a high civil servant, I learned of those things as far as the confiscation of property by the Gestapo was concerned.

Q. The Prosecution mentions as a further example of the participation of the political leiters in the conspiracy, the destruction of the free ~~krsads~~ trade unions. It has been claimed that, soon after the seizure of power May 2 1933, prominent members of the Corps of Political Leiters prepared to participate in the destruction of the trade unions. Did you know, Witness, who performed the destruction of the labor unions?

A. That was before I took office. Most of the offices of professional advisors were not created before 1934.

Q. The responsibility of the Political leiters is seen in the participation of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg and the looting of art treasures in German-occupied territories. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters know ~~x~~ what the Einsatzstab Rosenberg was and what its functions were? And did they have anything to do with it in their capacity as kreiswirtschaftsberaters?

A. Kreiswirtschaftsberaters ~~x~~ knew nothing of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg and had nothing to do with it.

Q. There took place outrages against the Jews from the 9th to the 10th of November, 1938, in the courwe of which synagogues were burned, Jewish homes were burned and looted, and many Jewish citizens were arrested and put into concentration camps. I am submitting to you Document PS 3051, USA 0520. It is a telegram by Ley of November 10, 1938 to all State police officers--Gestapoleiters and Gestapostellenleiters. In this telegram, "It is directed that you get in contact with the competent leitung, gau and kreis, to arrange for the conducting of those demonstrations, and a competent commander of the

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regular police is to be asked to join in those demonstrations. Had the political leiters received any advance information of that campaign, and had they received orders to participate in those outrages in any kind or form?

A. I do not know of any instructions of that kind.

Q. ~~Had~~ Had the kreiswirtschaftsberaters received any orders from the gauleiters or from the kreisleiters after the occurrence of the outrages against Jewish citizens? Had they received any orders concerning Jewish business undertakings?

A. In that respect, no, I never received any instructions.

Q. There have been a number of severe measures against the Jews which have been listed in the indictment. I am referring to the wearing of the yellow star by the ~~Jewish~~ Jews, the denial of their right to participate in elections. I refer to outrages against persons and property, restrictions in regard to living quarters, ~~and~~ the confiscation of property, deportations, forced labor, taking away of food, down to mass murder and mass extermination in the East and in the concentration camps. Have the kreiswirtschaftsberaters had any hand in these or similar measures against the Jews?

A. No they didn't.

Q. Did the Party leadership give you anyinstructions to participate in the persecution of the Jews?

A. No.

Q. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters receive from the Party leadership information in regard to the happenings and murders perfomred in the concentration camps, and did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters have anything to do directly or indirectly with the concentration camps?

A. The kreiswirtschaftsberaters had nothing to do whatsoever, directly or indirectly, with the concentration camps, and therefore I had no knowledge

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of the state of affairs there.

Q. I am coming to the point of the indictment regarding international rules and regulations concerning warfare. We are particularly interested in the question whether the kreiswirtschaftsberaters had anything to do with the killing of Allied fliers who had bailed out of airplanes. Kreisleiter Bormann issued in that connection a letter to the Party, informing the Party leiters that, if the population should lynch such Allied fliers, they should not be stopped. Did any Party officer inform the kreiswirtschaftsberaters of that instruction of Bormann's?

A. No, I never learned of that instruction.

(recess)

MR. TAYLOR: Proceed with the examination, Dr. Nath.

By Dr Nath -

Q. I am going to submit to you instructions issued by Hitler in 1939, issued to Reichsleiter Bouhler and Dr. Brandt. This is a document of the Prosecution. That letter authorized a number of specifically named physicians to administer the so-called "mercy killing" in cases where people were desperately ill. Were the leiters of ~~xxxxx~~ the professional offices informed of that Hitler order officially through the Party, and about the way in which it was carried out?

A. The ~~Hitler~~ kreiswirtschaftsberaters never were informed of that order, and it is my belief that the other professional advisors didn't learn of it either--perhaps with the exception of the advisor on health affiars, but I don't know of that either.

Q. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters have anything to do with the instances where those mercy killings were performed?

A. No, I didn't have anything to do with any matters concerning the sick.

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Q. For a certain period of time you were a block and zellen leiter, and therefore I would like to ask you a number of questions regarding these. Describe to the Commission the functions and nature of the work of the block and zellen leiters.

A. There existed in the kreis of Cologne-Aachen, to which I belonged, instructions that all political leiters had to perform services of blockleiters for at least three months. Therefore, in 1938 I served three months each as deputy to a blockleiter and to a zellenleiter. I was in charge of that block in which I resided. My block consisted of 41 houses, with about 49 families, of which about 27 or 28 were Party members. My task was the collection of membership fees, the distribution of training material, and the distribution of invitations to Party functions. I had to account for the membership fees which I collected at the office of the zellenleiter, from whom I also received my instructions. Subsequently I was in charge of a zell that consisted of three blocks. My tasks consisted in accounting for the membership fees which came in from the block and to account for those monies with the treasurer of the ortsgruppe. I furthermore had to forward the training materials and the invitations which came to me from the ortsgruppenleiter. My instructions were given to me either by the ortsgruppenleiter or the treasurer of the ortsgruppe. The material which I used in the office was a membership file.

Q. Based on the Organizations Book of the Party, the Prosecution has claimed that the block and zellen leiters had the best contact with the population and therefore were particularly fitted to influence politically and to supervise politically the population. The Prosecution calls the block and zellen leiters the "little Caesars who terrorized the population." Is that correct?

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A. No, at least during the time I worked as a blockleiter, I knew nobody who had that concept of that service.

Q. It was further claimed that the blockleiters performed the duties of police in Germany. The ~~blockleiters~~ blockleiters supposedly were the little leaders who had the real power over the people of their districts.

A. I can't imagine that any police officer would have obeyed instructions of a blockleiter. I know from my experience as a leading civil servant of the city of Bonn that none of the leiters carried the seal of the ortsgruppenleiter. Nothing could be acted upon at all unless it had the seal of the kreisleiter.

Q. Did the blockleiters have any real power over the residents of their districts?

A. No, and I couldn't imagine how they could have such power.

Q. The Prosecution continues: "Without the responsibility of the law, and without the approval of the courts, the Nazis had the power to take the liberty and/~~rights~~ lives of the citizens." Did the blockleiters at any time have such power?

A. No, the people in my district never had such power.

Q. Ley's Organization Book calls the block and zellenleiters "hoheitstraegers." Who was actually, correctly, a hoheitstraeger, and did the block and zellenleiters have the rights and privileges of hoheitstraegers?

A. Hoheitstraegers consisted of kreisleiters, gauleiters, and ortsgruppenleiters. The block and zellenleiters did not have the rights of hoheitstraegers; they had only to fulfill the orders of the ortsgruppenleiters.

Q. The indictment excepted the staff of the co-workers of the ortsgruppenleiter. Who had larger rights and privileges--the assistants and co-workers of the ortsgruppenleiter, or the block and zellenleiters?

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A. Undoubtedly the political leiters who were attached to the staff of the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q. Did the block and zellenleiters have the right to mobilize the SS, SA, Hitler Youth, or any other ~~xxx~~ Party formation, to force the citizens to perform any kind of action?

A. As far as I know, such privileges did not exist. The SA leiters were very anxious that they should receive orders only from the highest SA leiters--and not from block and zellenleiters.

~~xx~~ Q. The Organizations Book by Ley states, among other things: "Those who spread damaging rumors should be ascertained by the blockleiter ~~xx~~ and should be reported by him to the higher ~~x~~ Party officials so that, in turn, they can inform the State authorities. Were the blockleiters' instructions by the higher Party officials to spy on the residents of their blocks and to report their names to higher Party authorities as described by the Party Organizations Book?

A. All I know was that the blockleiters were supposed to gain the confidence of the people in whose block they lived. If they spied on people, they certainly would have lost that confidence right away.

Q. Is it correct, as has been done by the Prosecution, to consider the block and zellen leiters, lowest layer of political leiters, to be responsible for the domestic and foreign policy of the Party in regard to the planning of an aggressive war, crimes against international laws of warfare, and crimes against humanity?

A. As far as I know, the block and zellen leiters had no interest in domestic and foreign policy or ~~on~~ the other things just mentioned.

Q. The Prosecution submitted document No. 374 (USA 729). That is an order by the gau of ~~xxxxxx~~ Koblenz-Trier, issued by the Propaganda

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Department to all kreisleiters. That order is concerned with the fight against the Jews. In accordance with that, the ~~kreiskreisleiters~~ kreisleiters were supposed to form special committees charged with the supervision of all places in their districts. The document, among the preliminary tasks, mentions "In all places that committee is to set up a sub-committee, the membership of which is to be known by name only to the kreis committee. The membership of the sub-committee will give to the kreis committee the names of those Party members and other Germans--and particularly civil servants--who buy from Jews. The kreis committee is to ~~xx~~ mimeograph letters, the contents of which will be to inform the members of the people who engage in those crimes, to inform them of the horrible deeds they are performing; and these letters should bring to the attention of the people the public defamation they have to face when their deeds are made public." T Did you learn of that order of the Gau of Koblenz-Trier?

A. I do not know of any instruction of that kind.

Q. Would the block and zellen leiters have been the suitable persons for the supervision of people ~~xxxx~~ buying from Jews?

A. The block and zellen leiters would not have been the right persons for that purpose, particularly because they all followed their occupations during the daytime and didn't have time to pursue that activity.

Q./ Would ~~Did~~ that activity have been in accordance with the mission of the block and zellen leiters to gain the confidence of the people?

A. No, it would have conflicted with that mission.

Q. Whenever such an instruction was received from the office of the ortsgruppenleiter, which department of that office would have been concerned with that order?

A. If such an order had been issued at all, it would have been sent to the Propaganda Department. I do know of an instance which occurred in

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Bonn when a list of the Jewish stores was published, and the kreisleiter immediately prohibited the publication of a such a list.

By Dr Nath - That is all -

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES:

Q. You knew, did you not, that the Nazi Party carried on a continuous persecution of the Jews from 1933 on?

A. Yes. It was a part of the Party Program that the influence of the Jews should be restricted in accordance with their numbers.

Q. I am not talking about influence. Let me put it differently. You knew, did you not, that they carried out a continuous system of persecution from 1933 onwards--whatever the purpose may have been?

A. No. In that clear form, that was not done. That was done only after the Nurnberg incident.

Q. Do you consider the boycott of 1933 a form of persecution?

A. The business enterprises continued to operate, and the individual was free to buy there or not.

Q. Perhaps you will answer my question. I am not here to receive answers from you to questions I have not put. My job is to ask questions, and yours is to answer them. Will you please understand that. And now, perhaps I will ask you again. Do you consider a boycott of the Jews in 1933 a form of persecution?

A. No, I do not consider that a form of persecution.

Q. I accept that answer. Do you consider the demonstrations of 1938 with the burning of their synagogues and the seizure and putting into concentration camps millions of Jews--do you consider that a form of persecution?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider the seizure of their property for a tenth of its value persecution?

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A. Yes, that was persecution, too; also, there wasn't a correct trusteeship over these offices.

Q. Do you consider tying a yellow star on them a form of persecution?

A. It was a defamation, and therefore a persecution.

Q. Now, may we pass on to another matter. You knew that concentration camps were set up and maintained by the Nazi Party, did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. You knew that the Gestapo was set up and maintained by the Nazi Party.

A. Certainly.

Q. Did you know that, under the Nazi government, millions of foreigners were brought into the Reich to work as slaves for the government?

A./ All I knew was that foreign labor was called into Germany who were fed and paid properly.

Q. Were you in the area of Cologne and the Ruhr towns from 1941 onwards?

A. I was in Bonn, which is about 30 kilometres from Cologne.

Q. And your evidence is stating (We want to be quite clear, so that we know what value it has) that you did not know of foreign laborers being forced to work, badly fed, in and around Cologne?

A. All I knew was that, after the air raids in Cologne, there was established a labor camp, and the inmates were used in the clearing out of the city.

Q. Now you have told us that you knew about the persecution of the Jews, about the concentration camps, the Gestapo, and the foreign labor being employed in the Reich. Every other kreiswirtschaftsberater in Germany knew about those things too, didn't they??

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A. Yes. They came from the same districts, and every other block and zellen leiter in those districts knew about those things. Yes, they knew that there were foreign laborers.

Q. Would you agree with me that the Nazi system of government that was responsible for these things was maintained through the gauleiter, the kreisleiter, the ortsgruppenleiter, and the organizations that they controlled?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that anybody who took an active part in the running of those organizations also took a part in maintaining, or was, to some extent, responsible for the persecution of the Jews, the concentration camps, the Gestapo, and slave labor?

A. No. Most of them didn't have any influence.

Q. If nobody had been willing to hold office as gauleiter, kreisleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter, that party organization could never have existed, could it?

A. People accepted those offices because the party organization had also performed good things for the people.

Q. Will you answer my question. If nobody had ever accepted those offices, the party machine could never have functioned?

A. No, the party machine could never have functioned then.

Q. You say that the people took on those jobs because the Party had done good things.

A. Yes.

Q. It's right, isn't it, that the good things they did were done for the Nazi Party, and that they didn't give a scrap what they did to the Jews, or to the foreign countries they over-ran, or to anybody who thought differently from themselves.

A. No. That is not correct. I, for instance, in Bonn, was in a position

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to perform a number of good things in the interest of the people themselves--public health, etc.--which had been delayed for generations.

Q. I do not understand. Was the Nazi Party justified because it did some good to the Nazi people?

A. Yes. No parliamentary institutions functioned at all anymore before the Nazis and, for instance, in Bonn we were entirely unable to work within the framework of an orderly budget. The political parties were not brave enough any longer to establish a balance between expenditure and income because they were not willing to withhold funds from the institutions of their political friends. Therefore, small committees were formed to investigate the budgets and to formulate them in the framework of emergency measures, and the head of the State government was requested to establish that balance in the framework of emergency orders. The parliamentary institutions refused to carry any responsibility, and they put the burden up to the head of the State government in Cologne.

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES: That seems quite irrelevant to the question. Perhaps Dr. Nath would like to finish his speech.

DR. NATH: The witness only wanted to clarify that, up to 1933, the parliamentary system did not function any longer. I think that the witness has answered the question elaborately enough.

(The Commission adjourned at 1700 hours)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of t he testimony of KARL ENGELBERT, taken on 17 June 1946.

Bernice Winkler
Reporter (pp 1-2

Dorothy J. Noll
Reporter (pp 3 - 10

CERTIFIED TO :

Geo. B. Taylor
Commissioner

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

17 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. George R. Taylor

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at 1500 hours)

KARL ENGELBERT, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: Will the witness stand please? What is your fullname?

THE WITNESS: Karl Engelbert.

MR. TAYLOR: Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me. I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

MR. TAYLOR: You may sit down.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. NATH (Defense Counsel for the Corps of Political Leaders).

Q Please tell the Commission how old you are, what your civil profession is, and how long you have followed that profession?

A I am 55 years of age. I am a technical engineer in the city of Bonn. I have been Baurat which would be councillor in charge of building activities of the city since 1924, and I have been living all those years in Bonn.

Q When and why did you join the party?

A I joined the party on the first of May 1933. I did so because after parliamentary form had become inactive in Germany due to small party, I felt that all constructive forces should join in one large party to prevent the break of Germany.

Q Did you belong to one of the democratic parties in Germany before 1933?

A No.

Q Where were you a Kreiswirtschaftsberater - that would be advisor

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of economic affairs to be Kreisleiters?

A In Bonn. I received on April 20, 1937, a letter from the Gauleiter in Cologne, appointing me to Kreiswirtschaftsberater - Economic Advisor to the Kreisleiter. I filled this office until the end.

A Did you know which characteristics were used in the selection of the Kreiswirtschaftsberater?

A Part of the Kreiswirtschaftsberater were selected from industry and trade. The other part from those civil servants who were concerned with economic matters.

Q Did you receive any identifying papers as political leiters?

A In 1942, I received such a paper as a political leiter.

Q Was the oath of office taken from you?

A Yes.

Q Was it possible to refuse the exactments of political office or to lay down such an office because one didn't agree with the political aims and opinions of the Nazis?

A That would have been impossible for any public servant without very severe consequences.

Q Please advise the Commission to what serious consequences you are referring.

A I had to report to my superiors at the office the acceptance or the declination of such an office. My superior officer was obliged to forward such a report, if it concerned the refusal of such a Party office, to the Ministry of State.

Q What would have been the consequence for the position of the civil servant?

A Someone like me, who was holding a leading position, would have had to resign from his position.

Q Describe to the Commission the structure of the gau economic office or the Kreis economic office attached to the staff of the kreisleiter.

A I am going to do so as far as the kreiswirtschaftsberater office (kreis economic office) is concerned. I belonged as kreiswirtschaftsberater to the enlarged staff of the kreisleiter, whose subordinate I was in disciplinary matters. Directives of an official nature I received from the

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gauwirtschaftsberater, who belonged tothe staff of the gauleiter. As far as I know, the gauwirtschaftsberater received his instructions from the gauleiter and from the deputy of the fuehrer. I did not maintain any office in the kreisleiter's office building.

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Q Did you have any staff to assist you?

A My tasks were so small that I didn't need any assistance.

Q Please describe the tasks of the kreiswirtschaftsberater.

A My job was the counselling of the kreisleiter and of my fellow citizens in regard to economic affairs. People who, for instance, needed advice in tax matters came to me to inquire where they should go. Also, until the outbreak of war, I had to hold monthly conferences with representatives of industry, trade, the German Labor Front, and of the crafts, and to report the results of those discussions on general economic problems to the kreisleiter. Special problems which were the subject of such conversations were, for instance, monetary problems, raw materials and labor supply.

Q Were you the economic advisor to the ortsgruppenleiter?

A No.

Q Would you characterize the office of the kreiswirtschaftsberater as a merely professional office?

A Yes, it was merely professional.

Q Did similar merely professional offices exist in the staff?

A Yes, there were others, as, for instance, for the people's health, education, civil servants, technique, legal advisors, and community policy.

Q Did the advisors for trades, industry, and also agricultural policy also belong?

A Yes, I forgot to mention them.

Q Was there a decrease in the activities of the kreiswirtschafts-berater during the war?

A Yes; after the outbreak of the war those monthly conferences were not held anymore because the army began to take care of the industrial establishments. The only tasks which remained were occasional sessions giving advice to individual fellow citizens.

Q To enable the Commission to form an opinion as to the scope of your activities, please tell us how many of those conferences you held.

A They were most infrequent -- perhaps once every two or three months

Q Did those professional advisors of the kreisleiter, for instance of the kreiswirtschaftsberater, participate in the regularly-scheduled conferences of the kreisleiter, and how often did those take place?

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A I participated only at conferences which were called every two or three months, but I did not participate in monthly political conferences which the kreisleiter held with his political advisors.

Q What was the subject of conversation between you, as a kreiswirtschaftsberater, and thoseprofessional advisors of the kreisleiter, every two or three months?

A There wasn't anything particularly directed to any of us. The invitations were extended to all of us, and we had a duty to appear at such meetings. The kreisleiter reviewed the general terms of the situation, stressing that anything he would say would be merely his personal opinion; and the man in charge of the kreisleiter's office subsequently announced any dates of schedules which had to be known to the staff of the kreisleiter. Then the question was asked whether anybody attending the meeting wished to bring up anything of general interest to those present. If so, those questions were discussed. And then the meeting, which lasted on the average of some one to one and one-half hours, was adjourned.

Q Did you receive orders from the kreisleiter, and, if so, which?

A The only thing which I had to do with the kreisleiter was that the kreisleiter referred citizens who came to him with questions of an economic nature to me.

Q Do I understand you correctly, Witness, that you, if such citizens were referred to you, that you were to advise them?

A Yes, that's right.

Q What was the connection of the kreiswirtschaftsberater office to other Nazi organizations, as the SA, SS, German Labor Front, etc.?

A No connection whatsoever existed.

Q Did you know the Ley Organizations Book of the Nazi Party?

A No, I never saw it.

Q Did you know, on the basis of your personal experience, whether the political leiters paid attention to the Organizations Book and followed its directives?

A I can't answer, because I didn't know of it.

Q Do you know an order issued by Hitler and posted in all Party offices within the last few years, saying that only that person may know

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about a matter who is concerned with its carrying out and no one has to learn more than he should know for the fulfilment of his tasks, and no one should learn of a matter earlier than he has to? Was that order observed by the staff of the kreisleiter?

A The only knowledge I had of that Hitler order was that which I had gained as a civil servant. As a kreiswirtschaftsberater, the kreisleiter never gave me notice of that order. I never saw it posted in any office of the kreisleiter.

Q Were there any secret directives for the kreiswirtschaftsberater?

A I never received secret orders.

Q One calls the kreiswirtschaftsberater a political leiter. Had they anything to do with politics in the narrow sense of the word?

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A No, we were not concerned with political questions.

Q Did you, therefore, consider it correct that the kreiswirtschafts-berater and the other professional advisors were considered political leiters?

A Only in a very broad sense is that expression justified.

Q Could you explain a little more elaborately?

A Generally any office holder or any candidate for Party membership who held an office in the Party was called a political leiter, regardless of whether he had to fill political or professional tasks.

Q Did you know whether that title, "Political leiter", was bestowed upon people as an honorary title, too?

A Only in that sense that former kreisleiters, if they assumed public office--as, for instance, Lord Mayor--then they retained the title "kreisleiter" as an honorary title.

Q Did the political leiters you knew of belong to a Christian church?

A A large part of those I knew did belong to a Christian church. I, myself, am a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and have held various offices in my church and counselled and advised my church in regard to building matters. After I surrendered that office, I was given an honorary office in that church.

Q Did the political leiters of your district participate in church activities, for instance, did they attend services and participate in church organizations?

A Yes, in regard to those political leiters who did belong to a church, they did participate in such activities.

Q Did the political leiters receive instructions, particularly from the gauleiters or kreisleiters, to leave the church?

A As far as I knew, I don't remember anyt hing of that kind. I do recall that a conference of advisors of the kreisleiter in 1938 started to discuss the matter of leaving the church, but the kreisleiter definitely stated that such matters should not be discussed.

Q I now come to definite points of the indictment. The indictment

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charges the political leiters with having participated in a joint plan of conspiracy aiming at the committing of crimes against the peace, the laws of international warfare, and humanity. The indictment considers the Party Program the main basis of that conspiracy of conquest and crime. I shall ask you a few questions in regard to the points of the Party Program and ask you, in connection with Point Two, of Part One: "We demand the equal rights of the German people--equal to the rights of other nations. We demand the abolition of the Treaty of Versailles." How did the letters of professional offices understand this point of the Party program?

A I can't say how leiters in general considered that point., because we never discussed it. I can give you only my personal opinion. My opinion was that, since that treaty provided for precedures which allowed for amendments for the other countries concerned, that procedure should be applied to Germany, too.

Q Was there anything known within the staff of the kreisleiter, to which you belonged, with regard to the planning of an aggressive war?

A No, we weren't told anything of that kind.

Q How did the political leiters and the German people react to the outbreak of the war in 1939?

A I can only say, as a matter of grave importance and as a matter of defense to which we were compelled.

Q The indictment further charges that the Corps of Political Leiters--that means also the leiters of the professional offices, the economic offices--were responsible for all measures conducted for the purpose of the conspiracy of the State and of the Government, including legislative matters. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters who were coordinated with the kreisleiter have any influence on the legislation of the Third Reich--even only in the form of mere suggestions?

A Such a possibility did not exist; at least I never heard of it.

Q It is claimed that a significant example of the responsibility of the political leiters was their participation in the persecution of the Christian Church.

A I know nothing of such a participation.

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Q Were the kreiswirtschaftsberaters informed by the Party's highest officials or by the kreisleiter, of the fight against the Church, and did they have anything to do with it?

A Neither in personal conversation nor at those meetings called "kreisappelle", was there anything said about it by the kreisleiter.

Q Were you ever told anything about the ideas of the Party in the Church-Party war?

A No, I never heard anything about that.

Q Many ministers, Protestant and Catholic alike, and members of religious orders, were arrested and put into concentration camps by the Nazis, and the property of the Church was confiscated. Did the Party leadership inform you as a kreiswirtschaftsberater, or any of your other colleagues, of those actions a ainst ministers and churches, or did you learn about those things by other means?

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A I learned nothing about those things in my capacity as kreis-wirtschaftsberater, and I am sure that the other advisors learned only by chance. In my position as a high civil servant, I learned of those things as far as the confiscation of property by the Gestapo was concerned.

Q The Prosecution mentions as a further example of the participation of the political leiters in the conspiracy, the destruction of the free trade unions. It has been claimed that, soon after the seizure of power May 2 1933, prominent members of the Corps of Political Leiters prepared to participate in the destruction of the trade unions? Did you know, Witness, who performed the destruction of the labor unions?

A That was before I took office. Most of the offices of professional advisors were not created before 1934.

Q The responsibility of the policital leiter is seen in the participation of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg and the looting of art treasures in German-occupied territories. Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters know what the Einsatzstab Rosenberg was and what its functions were? And did they have anything to do with it in their capacity as kreiswirtschaftsberaters?

A Kreiswirtschaftsberaters knew nothing of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg and had nothing to do with it.

Q There took place outrages against the Jews from the 9th to the 10th of November, 1938, in the course of which synagogues were burned, Jewish homes were burned and looted, and many Jewish citizens were arrested, and put into concentration camps. I am submitting to you Document PS 3051, USA 0520. It is a telegram by Frey of November 10, 1938 to all State police officers--Gestapoleiters and Gestapostellenleiters. In this telegram, " It is directed that you get in contact withthe competent lei tung, gau and kreis, to arrange for the conducting of those demonstrations, and a competent commander of the regular police is to be asked to join in those demonstrations." Had the political leiters received any advance information of that campaign, and had they received orders to participate in those outrages in any kind or form?

A I do not know of any instructions of that kind.

Q Had the kreiswirtschaftsberaters received any orders from the gauleiters or from the kreisleiters after the occurrence of the outrages against Jewish citizens? Had they received any orders concerning Jewish

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business undertakings?

A In that respect, no. I never received any instructions.

Q There have been a number of severe measures against the Jews which have been listed in the indictment. I am referring to the wearing of the yellow star by the Jews, the denial of their right to participate in elections. I refer to outrages against persons and property, restrictions in regard to living quarters, the confiscation of property, deportations, forced labor, taking away of food, down to mass murder and mass extermination in the East and in the concentration camps. Have the kreiswirtschaftsberaters had any hand in these or similar measures against the Jews?

A No they didn't.

Q Did the Party leadership give you any instructions to participate in the persecution of the Jews?

A No.

Q Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters receive from the Party leadership information in regard to the happenings and murders performed in the concentration camps, and did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters have anything to do directly or indirectly with the concentration camps?

A The kreiswirtschaftsberaters had nothing to do whatsoever, directly or indirectly, with the concentration camps, and therefore I had no knowledge of the state of affairs there.

Q I am coming to the point of the indictment regarding international rules and regulations concerning warfare. We are particularly interested in the question whether the kreiswirtschaftsberaters had anything to do with the killing of Allied fliers who had bailed out of airplanes. Kreisleiter Bormann issued in that connection a letter to the Party, informing the Party leiters that, if the population should lynch such Allied fliers, they should not be stopped. Did any Party officer inform the kreiswirtschaftsberaters of that instruction of Bormann's?

A No, I never learned of that instruction.

(Recess)

MR. TAYLOR: Proceed with the examination, Dr. Nath.

BY DR. NATH:

Q I am going to submit to you instructions issued by Hitler in

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1939, issued to Reichsleiter Bouhler and Dr. Brandt. This is a document of the Prosecution. That letter authorized a number of specifically named physicians to administer the so-called "mercy killing" in cases where people were desperately ill. Were the letters of the professional offices informed of that Hitler order officially through the Party, and about the way in which it was carried out?

A The kreiswirtschaftsberaters never were informed of that order, and it is my belief that the other professional advisors didn't learn of it either--perhaps with the exception of the advisor on health affairs, but I don't know of that either.

Q Did the kreiswirtschaftsberaters have anything to do with the instances where those mercy killings were performed?

A No, I didn't have anything to do with any matters concerning the sick.

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Q. For a certain period of time you were a block and zellen leiter, and therefore, I would like to ask you a number of questions regarding those. Describe to the Commission the functions and nature of the work of the block and zellen leiters.

A. There existed in the Kreis of Cologne-Aachen to which I belonged, instructions that all political leiters had to perfrom services of blockleiters for at least three months. Therefore, in 1938, I served three months each as deputy to a blockleiter and to a zellenleiter. I was in charge of that block in which I resided. My block consisted of 41 houses, with about 49 families, of which about 27 or 28 were Party members. My task was the collection of membership fees, the distribution of training material, and the distribution of invitations to Party functions. I had to account for the membership fees, which I collected at the office of the zellen leiter, from whom I also received my instructions. Subsequently, I was in charge of a zell that consisted of three blocks. My tasks consisted in accounting for the membership fees which came in from the block and to account for those monies with the treasurers of the ortsgruppe. I furthermore had to forward the training materials and the invitations which came to me from the ortsgruppenleiter, or the treasurer of the ortsgruppe. The material which I used in the office was a membership file.

Q. Based on the Organizations Book of the Party, the Prosecution has claimed that the block and zellen leiters had the best contact with the population and therefore were particularly fitted to influence politically and to supervise politically the population. The Prosecution calls the block and zellen leiters the "little Ceasars who terrortized the population". Is that correct?

A. No, at least during the time I worked as a blockleiter, I know nobody who had that concept of that service

Q. It was further claimed that the blockleiters performed the duties of police in Germany. The blockleiters supposedly were the little leaders, who had the real power of the people of their districts.

A. I can't imagine that any police officer would have obeyed instructions of a blockleiter. I know from my experience as a leading civil servant of the city of Bonn that none of the leiters carried the seal of the ortsgruppenleiter. Nothing could be acted upon at all unless it had the seal of the kreisleiter.

Q. Did the blockleiters have any real power over the residents of their districts?

A. No, and I couldn't imagine how they could have such power.

Q. The Prosecution continues: "Without the responsibility of the law, and without the approval of the courts, the Nazis had the power to take the liberty and lives of the citizens." Did the blockleiters at any time have such power?

A. No, the peopl in my district never had such power.

Q. Ley's Organization Book calls the block and zellenleiters "hoheitstraeger". Who was actually, correctly, a hoheitstraeger, and did the block and zellenleiters have the rights and privileges of hoheitstraegers?

A. Hoheitstraegers consisted of kreisleiters, gauleiters, and ortsgruppenleiters. The block and zellenlieters did not have the rights of hoheitstraegers; they had only to fulfill the orders of the ortsgruppenleiters.

Q. The indictment excepted the staff of the co-workers of the ortsgruppenleiter. Who had larger rights and privileges--the assistants and co-workers of the ortsgruppenleiter, or the block and zellenleiters?

A. Undoubtedly the political leiters who were attached to the staff of the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q. Did the block and zellenleiters have the right to mobilize the SS, SA, Hitler Youth, or any other Party formation, to

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force the citizens to perform any kind of action?

A. As far as I know, such privileges did not exist. The SA leiters were very anxious that they should receive orders only from the highest SA leiters--not from block and zellen leiters.

Q. The Organization Book by Ley states, among other things: "Those who spread damaging rumors should be ascertained by the blockleiter, and should be reported by him to the higher Party officials so that, in turn, they can inform the State authorities." Were the blockleiters' instructed by the higher Party officials to syp on the residents of their blocks and to report their names to higher Party authorities as described by the Party Organizations Book?

A. All I know was that the blockleiters were supposed to gain the confidence of the people in whose block they lived. If they spoid on people, they certainly would have lost that confidence right away.

Q. Is it correct, as has been done by the Prosecution, to consider the block and zellenleiters, lowest layer of political leiters, to be responsible for the domestic and foreign policy of the Party in regard to the planning of an aggressive war, crimes against international laws of warfare, and crimes against humanity?

A. As far as I know, the block and zellenleiters had no interest in domestic and foreign policy, or in the other things just mentioned.

Q. The Prosecution submitted document No.374, (USA 729). That is an order by the gau of Koblenz-Trier, issued by the Propaganda

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Department to all kreisleiters. That order is concerned with the fight against the Jews. In accordance with that, the kreisleiters were supposed to form special committees charged with the supervision of all places in their districts. The document, among the preliminary tasks, mentions "In all places that committee is to set up a sub-committee, the membership of which is to be known by name only to the kreis committee. The membership of the sub-committee will give to the kreis committee the names of those Party members and other Germans--and particularly civil servants--who buy from Jews. The kreis committee is to mimeograph letters, the contents of which will be to inform the members of the people who engage in those crimes, to inform them of the horrible deeds they are performing; and these letters should bring to the attention of the people the public defamation they have to face when their deeds are made public." Did you learn of that order of the Gau of Koblenz-Trier?

A I do not know of any instruction of that kind.

Q Would the block and zellen leiters have been the suitable persons for the supervision of people buying from Jews?

A The block and Zellen leiters would not have been the right persons for that purpose, particularly because they all followed their occupations during the daytime and didn't have time to pursue that activity.

Q Would that activity have been in accordance with the mission of the block and zellen leiters to gain the confidence of the people?

A No, it would have conflicted with that mission.

Q Whenever such an instruction was received from the office of the ortsgruppenleiter, which department of that office would have been concerned with that order?

A If such an order had been issued at all, it would have been sent to the Propaganda Department. I do know of an instance which occurred in Bonn when a list of the Jewish stores was published; the kreisleiter immediately prohibited the publication of

H0954-0039

such a list.

BY DR. NATH:

That is all --

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q You knew, did you not, that the Nazi Party carried on a continuous persecution of the Jews from 1933 on?

A Yes. It was a part of the Party Program that the influence of the Jews should be restricted in accordance with their numbers.

Q I am not talking about influence. Let me put it differently. You knew, did you not, that they carried out a continuous system of persecution from 1933 onwards -- whatever the purpose may have been?

A No. In that clear form, that was not done. That was done only after the Nurnberg incident.

Q Do you consider the boycott of 1933 a form of persecution?

A The business enterprises continued to operate, and the individual was free to buy there or not.

Q Perhaps you will answer my question. I am not here to receive answers from you to questions I have not put. My job is to ask questions, and yours is to answer them. Will you please understand that. And now, perhaps I will ask you again. Do you consider a boycott of the Jews in 1933 a form of persecution?

A No, I do not consider that a form of persecution.

Q I accept that answer. Do you consider the demonstrations of 1938 with the burning of their synagogues and the seizure and putting into concentration camps millions of Jews--do you consider that a form of persecution?

A Yes.

Q Do you consider the seizure of their property for a tenth of its value persecution?

A Yes, that was persecution, too; Also, there wasn't a correct trusteeship over these offices.

Q Do you consider tying a yellow star on them a form of

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persecution?

A It was a defamation, and therefore a persecution.

Q No., may we pass on to another matter. You knew that concentration camps were set up and maintained by the Nazi Party, did you not?

A Yes.

Q You knew that the Gestapo was set up and maintained by the Nazi Party.

A Certainly.

Q Did you know that, under the Nazi government, millions of foreigners were brought into the Reich to work as slaves for the government?

A All I knew was that foreign labor was called into Germany who were fed and paid properly.

Q Were you in the area of Cologne and the Ruhr towns from 1941 onwards?

A I was in Bonn, which is about 30 kilometres from Cologne.

Q And your evidence is stating (We want to be quite clear, so that we know what value it has) that you did not know of foreign laborers being forced to work, badly fed, in and around Cologn

A All I knew was that, after the air raids in Cologne, ther was established a labor camp, and the inmates were used in the clearing out of the city.

Q Now you have told us that you knew about the persecution of the Jews, about the concentration camps, the Gestapo, and the foreign labor being employed in the Reich. Every other kreiswirtschaftsberater in Germany knew about those things too, didn't they?

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A Yes. They came from the same districts, and every other block and zellen leiter in those districts knew about those things. Yes, they knew that there were foreign laborers.

Q Would you agree with me that the Nazi system of government that was responsible for these things was maintained through the gauleiter, the kreisleiter, the ortzgruppenleiter, and the organizations that they controlled?

A Yes.

Q Do you think that any body who took an active part in the running of those organizations also took a part in maintaining, or was, to some extent, responsible for the persecution of the Jews, the concentration camps, the Gestapo, and slave labor?

A No. Most of them didn't have any influence.

Q If nobody had been willing to hold office as gauleiter, kreisleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter, that party organization could never have existed, could it?

A People accepted those offices because the party organization had also performed good things for the people.

Q Will you answer my question. If nobody had ever accepted those offices, the party machine could never have functioned?

A No, the party machine could never have functioned then.

Q You say that the people took on those jobs because the Party had done good things.

A Yes.

Q It's right, isn't it, that the good things they did were done for the Nazi Party, and that they didn't give a scrap what they did to the Jews, or to the foreign countries they over-ran, or to anybody who thought differently from themselves.

A No. That is not correct. I, for instance, in Bonn, was in a position to perform a number of good things in the interest of the people themselves-- public health, etc. --which had been delayed for generations.

Q I do not understand. Was the Nazi Party justified because it did some good to the Nazi people?

H0954-0042

A Yes. No parliamentary institutions functioned at all anymore before the Nazis and, for instance, in Bonn we were entirely unable to work within the framework of an orderly budget. The political parties were not brave enough any longer to establish a balance between expenditure and income because they were not willing to withhold funds from the institutions of their political friends. Therefore, small committees were formed to investigate the budgets and to formulate them in the framework of emergency measures, and the head of the State government was requested to establish that balance in the framework of emergency orders. The parliamentary institutions refused to carry any responsibility, and they put the burden up to the head of the State government in Cologne.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: That seems quite irrelevant to the question. Perhaps Dr. Nath would like to finish his speech.

DR. NATH: The witness only wanted to clarify that, up to 1933, the parliamentary system did not function any longer. I think that the witness has answered the question elaborately enough.

(The Commission adjourned at 1700 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of KARL ENGELBERT, taken on 17 June 1946.

Bernice Winkler
Reporter

Dorothie J. Noll
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

George R. Taylor
Commissioner